



Creative Connections Contribute to Community Vitality

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Residents feel positive, healthy & creative - Visitors return for authentic experiences. We foster connections among diverse members of our local communities so people can build relationships & participate in agriCULTURE, art, local food, recreation & tourism.

Following are excerpts from the Institute for Emerging Issues at North Carolina State University, and other presenters shared at the 2014 **Art+Ag: Powering Rural Economies Conference** hosted by ArtForce & National Rural Assembly.

Being Connected or Belonging to a Group or Community Gives Us a Sense of Identity.

It helps us understand who we are & feel part of something larger than ourselves.

Feeling connected doesn't just make us feel good; it also make us do good.

Creativity is Important- it can be developed, harnessed and directed to realize economic value. It can cushion economic downturns and enhance the quality of life in our community.

"Creative thinking is now the world's most valuable commodity: it can't be outsourced or automated, and it generates the innovations that lead to new businesses and industries."

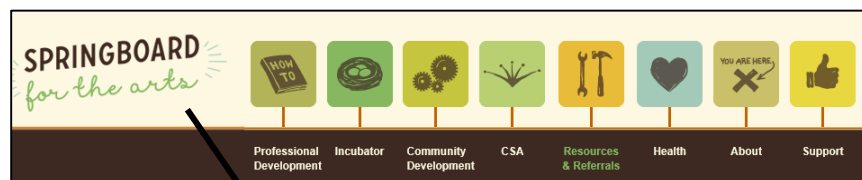
Creative Assets: The recognition of arts, cultural amenities, and other factors as contributors to quality of life in a particular place and as economic drivers for a region.

- What are the assets that our communities have that we can build upon?
- How can we help others to think about how to develop and bolster our creativity?

The **Rural Arts & Culture Working Group of the National Rural Assembly** launched a series of virtual conversations in 2014 that brought together rural artists, leaders, practitioners, funders, and other rural advocates, to talk about what's happening in the rural arts, sample some models, and encourage more camaraderie among practitioners.

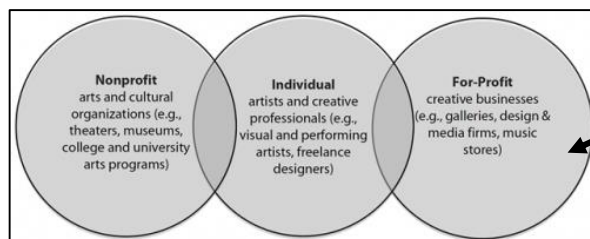


<http://ruralassembly.org/cross-currents-resources/>



<http://springboardforthearts.org/>

(Community Supported Art)



Creative Sonoma, Arts Action Plan, EDB

<http://edb.sonoma-county.org/documents/Creative-Sonoma-Arts-Action-Plan.pdf>